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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of Gibraltar

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 54/423 of 6 December 1999, and recalling at the same time that the statement agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Brussels on 27 November 1984[1] stipulates, inter alia, the following:

> "The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution",

takes note of the fact that, as part of this process, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Spain and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hold annual meetings alternately in each capital, the most recent of which took place in London on 10 December 1997, and urges both Governments to continue their negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in a spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

[1] A/39/732, annex.

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Papua New Guinea:* draft resolution

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options

* On behalf of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

[1] A/55/23 (Part II), chap. X.

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of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its concern that even forty years after the adoption of the Declaration there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Acknowledging the significant achievements by the international community towards the eradication of colonialism in accordance with the Declaration, and conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000 and the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[2]

Noting the positive constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the Special Committee has received information, while also acknowledging the need for recognition to be given to expressions of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories consistent with practice under the Charter,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Welcoming also the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation and, in this connection, bearing in mind Agenda 21,[3] the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World; Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, Containing the Principles, the Strategy and

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[2] See A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

the Plan of Action,[4] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[5] and other relevant world conferences,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Noting that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar at Majuro from 16 to 18 May 2000 to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as Governments and organizations in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories,

Mindful that in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Mindful also in this connection that the Special Committee regards the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as a helpful means to fulfil its mandate, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of those seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time and that no such visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations

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[4] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

Noting that some territorial Governments have made efforts towards achieving the highest standards of financial supervision, but that some others have been listed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development as having met the Organization's criteria defining a tax haven, and noting that some territorial Governments had expressed concern about insufficient dialogue between them and the Organization;

Noting also the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Reaffirms also* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV);

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and other updated information and reports, including reports on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status as expressed in fair and free referendums and other forms of popular consultation, as well as the results of any informed and democratic processes consistent with practice under the Charter that indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territories;

4. *Stresses* the importance for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their conditions;

5. *Reaffirms* that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee in this regard;

6. *Reaffirms also* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be

given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. *Requests* the administering Powers, in consultation with the peoples of the Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

9. *Notes with concern* that the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism cannot be concluded by the year 2000;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to enter into constructive dialogue with the Special Committee before the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly to develop a framework for the implementation of the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the period beyond 2000;

11. *Notes* the particular circumstances that prevail in the Territories concerned, and encourages the political evolution in them towards self-determination;

12. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

13. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories, and calls for closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the furtherance of the provision of assistance to the Territories;

14. *Takes note* of statements made by the elected representatives of the Territories concerned emphasizing their willingness to cooperate with all international efforts aimed at preventing abuse of the international financial system and to promote regulatory environments with highly selective licensing procedures, robust supervisory practices and well-established anti-money-laundering regimes;

15. *Calls for* an enhanced and constructive dialogue between the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the concerned territorial Governments with a view to bringing about the changes needed to meet the highest standards of transparency and information exchange in order to facilitate the removal of these Territories from the list of jurisdictions classified as tax havens, and requests the administering Power to assist those Non-Self-Governing Territories in resolving this matter;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of resolutions concerning decolonization adopted since the declaration of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories in exercising their right to self-determination.

B

Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I. American Samoa

Taking note of the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

Taking note with interest of the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in American Samoa provided by the Governor of American Samoa to the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,[6]

Noting that the territorial Government continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base and recent natural disasters,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical and other infrastructural facilities,

Aware of the efforts of the territorial Government to control and reduce expenditures while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other functions of the territorial Government;

3. *Welcomes* the invitation extended by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

[6] See A/AC.109/2121, para. 28.

II. Anguilla

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Strategic Country Programme 2000-2003,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable and well-regulated offshore financial centre for investors by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

Noting also that general elections were held on 3 March 2000, resulting in a new coalition government in the House of Assembly,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in its social and economic development;

3. *Welcomes* the country cooperation framework of the United Nations Development Programme for the period 1997-1999 currently being implemented following consultations with the territorial Government and key development partners in the United Nations system and the donor community;

4. *Also welcomes* the assessment by the United Nations Development Programme that the Territory has made considerable progress in the domain of sustainable human development and in its sound management and preservation of the environment, which has been incorporated into the National Tourism Plan;

5. *Further welcomes* the assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank in its 1999 report on the Territory that, despite economic contraction in the first quarter, the economy rebounded to reach 6 per cent growth during 1999;

III. Bermuda

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995, and conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting also the functioning of the democratic process and the smooth transition of government in November 1998,

Noting further the comments made by the administering Power in its recently published White Paper on Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories,[7]

[7] See A/AC.109/1999/1 and Corr.1, annex.

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to work with the Territory for its socio-economic development;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of the military bases and installations of the United States of America in the Territory;

IV. British Virgin Islands

Noting the completion of a constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 17 May 1999,

Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

Noting further that the Territory commemorated its annual British Virgin Islands-United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day on 27 May 2000 in official ceremonies in Tortola,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors;

3. *Welcomes* the assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank in its 1999 report that the Territory enjoyed continued expansion of the financial services sector and tourism industries, and also welcomes the provision to the Territory of 21.1 million United States dollars in technical assistance loans by the Caribbean

Development Bank, including 19.9 million dollars to assist with the financing of the Beef Island Airport,

V. Cayman Islands

Noting the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population of the Cayman Islands expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation by the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking, money laundering and related activities,

Noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting also that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting further the approval by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly of the Territory's Vision 2008 Development Plan, which aims to promote development that is consistent with the aims and values of Caymanian society,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

5. *Welcomes* the implementation of the country cooperation framework of the United Nations Development Programme for the Territory, which is designed to ascertain national development priorities and United Nations assistance needs;

VI. Guam

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power,

providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 54/90 A and B of 6 December 1999,

Recalling further the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act are no longer continuing and that Guam has established the process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Noting the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,[8]

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Majuro from 16 to 18 May 2000,[9]

1. *Requests* the administering Power to work with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination with a view to facilitating Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of progress to that end;

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[8] See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20).

[9] A/55/23 (Part I), annex, para. 27.

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the plebiscite of 1987 and as provided for in Guam law, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to enter into negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

7. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

VII. Montserrat

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Majuro from 16 to 18 May 2000,

Taking note of the statement made by the Chief Minister of Montserrat on 22 May 1998 on the occasion of the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights,[10]

Noting that the last visiting mission to the Territory was dispatched in 1982,

Noting also the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat and that general elections were held in the Territory in November 1996,

Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of the eruptions of the Montsoufriere volcano, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island,

[10] See A/AC.109/SR.1486.

Noting the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruptions, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with concern that a number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to continue to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruptions;

3. *Welcomes* the support of the Caribbean Community in the construction of housing in the safe zone to alleviate a shortage caused by the environmental and human crisis of the eruptions of the Montsoufriere volcano, as well as the material and financial support of the international community to help alleviate the suffering caused by the crisis;

VIII. Pitcairn

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue its discussions with the representatives of Pitcairn on how best to support their economic security;

IX. St. Helena

Taking into account the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Noting that a Commission of Inquiry into the Constitution appointed at the request of the Legislative Council of St. Helena reported its recommendations in March 1999, and that the Legislative Council is currently considering the recommendations,

Also noting the administering Power's commitment to consider carefully suggestions for specific proposals for constitutional change from the territorial Governments, as stated in its White Paper on Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories,[7]

Welcoming the participation of an expert from the St. Helena Legislative Council for the first time in the Pacific regional seminar, held at Majuro from 16 to 18 May 2000,[11]

Aware of the establishment by the territorial Government of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the spheres of food production, continuing high unemployment and limited transport and communications, and calls for continuing negotiations to allow access to Ascension Island by civilian charter flights,

Noting with concern the problem of unemployment on the island, and noting the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with it,

1. *Notes* that the administering Power has taken note of various statements made by members of the Legislative Council of St. Helena about the Constitution and is prepared to discuss them further with the people of St. Helena;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development challenges, including high unemployment and the problems of limited transport and communications;

X. Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Cabinet Minister as well as a member of the legislature from the opposition of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[12]

Noting that the People's Democratic Movement was elected to power in the Legislative Council elections held in March 1999,

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[11] A/55/23 (Part I), annex, para. 39.

[12] See A/AC.109/2089, para. 29.

Also noting the efforts by the territorial Government to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

Welcoming the assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank in its 1999 report that the economic performance of the Territory remained strong, with an increase in gross domestic product estimated at 8.7 per cent, reflecting strong growth in the tourism and construction sectors,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Invites* the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

5. *Welcomes* the assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank in its 1999 report that the economy continued to expand with considerable output and low inflation;

6. *Also welcomes* the first country cooperation framework approved by the United Nations Development Programme for the period 1998-2002, which should, inter alia, assist in the development of a national integrated development plan that will put into place procedures for determining the national development priorities over ten years, with the focus of attention on health, population, education, tourism and economic and social development;

7. *Takes note* of the statement made by the elected Chief Minister in May 2000 that the Territory was in the process of developing diversified resource mobilization strategies, including joint ventures with the private sector, and that external assistance would be welcomed as part of that process;

XI. United States Virgin Islands

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Majuro from 16 to 18 May 2000,[13]

[13] A/55/23 (Part I), para. 31.

Noting that although 80.4 per cent of the 27.5 per cent of the electorate that voted in the referendum on the political status of the Territory held on 11 October 1993 supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the administering Power, the law required the participation of 50 per cent of the registered voters for the results to be declared legally binding and therefore the status was left undecided;

Noting also the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States,

Noting further the necessity of further diversifying the economy of the Territory,

Noting the efforts of the territorial Government to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Noting with satisfaction the interest of the Territory in joining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a full participant,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

Noting that the Territory commemorated its annual British Virgin Islands–United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day on 27 May 2000 in official ceremonies in Tortola,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. *Further requests* the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States;

4. *Expresses concern* that the Territory, which is already heavily indebted, had to borrow 21 million United States dollars from a commercial bank to carry out its year 2000 computer compliance programme, and calls for the United Nations year 2000 programme to be made available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Notes* that the general elections held in the Territory in November 1998 resulted in the orderly transfer of power;

6. *Expresses concern* that the territorial Government is facing severe fiscal problems, which has resulted in an accumulated debt of more than 1 billion dollars;

7. *Welcomes* the measures being taken by the newly elected territorial Government in addressing the crisis, including the adoption of a five-year operating and strategic financial plan, and calls upon the administering Power to provide every assistance required by the Territory to alleviate the fiscal crisis, including, inter alia, the provision of debt relief and loans;

8. *Notes* that the 1994 report of the United States Virgin Islands Commission on Status and Federal Relations concluded that, owing to the insufficient level of voter participation, the results of the 1993 referendum were declared legally null and void.

United Nations A/C.4/55/L.6

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 82
Effects of atomic radiation

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 54/66 of 6 December 1999, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the comprehensive report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,[1]

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-fifth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/55/46).

00-68034 (E) 091000

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-five years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the completion in 2000 of the thirteenth comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee, entitled "Sources and Effects of Ionizing Radiation, United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation 2000 Report to the General Assembly, with scientific annexes", thereby providing the scientific and world community its latest evaluations of the sources and effects of ionizing radiation on human beings and their environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including its present reporting arrangements;

4. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

5. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

9. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of ionizing radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

10. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 82
Effects of atomic radiation

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 54/66 of 6 December 1999, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and of the release of its extensive report,[1]

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-fifth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/55/46).

00-71002 (E) 251000

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-five years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Scientific Committee and of the release of its extensive report, entitled "Sources and effects of ionizing radiation, United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation 2000 report to the General Assembly, with scientific annexes", which provides the scientific and world community with the Committee's latest evaluations of the sources and effects of ionizing radiation on human beings and their environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including its present reporting arrangements;

4. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and invites the Scientific Committee to submit its programme of work to the General Assembly;

5. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

9. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing future scientific reports;

10. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of ionizing radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

11. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

United Nations

A/C.4/55/L.7

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 82
Effects of atomic radiation

Belarus and Ukraine: amendments to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/55/L.6

1. After the first preambular paragraph, insert two new preambular paragraphs, reading:

"*Reaffirming* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including its present reporting arrangements,

"*Endorsing* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly."

2. In the current second preambular paragraph replace the words "Taking note with appreciation of the comprehensive report" with the words "Taking note of the report".

3. Delete the current third preambular paragraph.

4. The current fifth preambular paragraph thus falls in the place of the deleted third preambular paragraph.

5. In operative paragraph 2, in the first line, after the word "Notes", delete the words "with satisfaction the completion in 2000".

6. In operative paragraph 2, in the second line, before the word "report", delete the word "comprehensive".

7. Delete operative paragraphs 3 and 5 and renumber the subsequent operative paragraphs accordingly.

8. Before current operative paragraph 10, insert a new operative paragraph, reading:

"*Recommends* that the Scientific Committee conduct its work on a transparent basis, which should include consultations with scientists and

00-68218 (E) 101000

experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing future substantive scientific reports;"

9. After current operative paragraph 10, insert a new operative paragraph, reading:

"*Requests* the Committee to submit its renewed programme of work to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-fifth session not later than 1 February 2001."

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General Assembly

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 82
Effects of atomic radiation

Belarus and Ukraine: revised amendments to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/55/L.6

1. In the second preambular paragraph replace the words "Taking note with appreciation of the comprehensive report" with the words "Taking note of the substantive report".

2. Transpose the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs.

3. In operative paragraph 2, replace the words "Notes with satisfaction the completion" with the words "Notes the release".

4. In operative paragraph 2, delete the word "comprehensive" before the word "report".

5. At the end of operative paragraph 4, add the words "and invites the Committee to submit its programme of work to the General Assembly on a regular basis".

6. In operative paragraph 5, delete the words "and plans".

7. After operative paragraph 8, insert the following paragraph:

> "9. *Recommends* the Scientific Committee to continue consultations with Member States concerned in the process of preparing its future reports;"

and renumber subsequent operative paragraphs accordingly.

00-68988 (E) 131000

United Nations A/C.4/55/L.8

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 83
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Chile*: draft resolution

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996 and 54/67 and 54/68 of 6 December 1999,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space

* On behalf of the Working Group of the Whole on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

00-69721 (E) 181000

projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Convinced of the importance of the recommendations in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999,[1]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III,[2]

Convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications, in such areas as tele-medicine, tele-education and Earth observation, contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-third session,[3]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-third session;[3]

2. *Encourages* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[4] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-ninth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/67;[5]

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the agreement reached by the Legal Subcommittee on the question of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit and the subsequent endorsement of that agreement by the Committee;[6]

5. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following as regular agenda items:

(i) General exchange of views;

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[1] See A/CONF.184/6, chap. I, resolution 1.

[2] A/55/153.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20).

[4] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), chap. II.C.

[6] A/AC.105/738, annex III, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 129.

(ii) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space;

(iii) Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law;

(iv) Matters relating to (1) the definition and delimitation of outer space; and (2) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(b) Consider the following single issues and items for discussion:

(i) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;[7]

(ii) The draft convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property;

(c) Continue its review of the concept of the "launching State", in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee;[8]

6. *Notes* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, will submit its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session, in 2002;

7. *Notes also* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (a) (iv) above, and in accordance with the agreement referred to in paragraph 4 above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its working group on the item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space;

8. *Notes further* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (c) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its working group to consider the item;

9. *Takes note* of the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies,[9] which were endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* that consensus decisions were reached on the members of the bureaux for the second term and agrees that, in accordance with those consensus decisions, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee should elect their chairmen for the second term at the beginning of their thirty-eighth session and fortieth session, respectively;

11. *Notes* that, in accordance with the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, mentioned in paragraph 9 above, consultations will be held among the regional groups at the forty-fourth session of the Committee to determine which group will be responsible for which office for the third term, starting in 2003;

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[7] See General Assembly resolution 47/68.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), chap. II.C, para. 114.

[9] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

12. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/67;[10]

13. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session continued to consider, on a priority basis, the agenda item on space debris;

14. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should assess the effectiveness of existing space debris mitigation practices and the extent to which they were being implemented and that efforts to model and characterize the debris environment should continue;

15. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following items:

(i) General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities;

(ii) United Nations Programme on Space Applications, following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);

(iii) Matters relating to remote-sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment;

(b) Consider the following items in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee at its forty-third session;[11]

(i) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(ii) Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system;

(iii) Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system;

(c) Consider the following single issues and items for discussion:

(i) Space debris, on a priority basis, consistent with paragraph 370 of the report of UNISPACE III;[12]

(ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

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[10] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), chap. II.B.

[11] See A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix for the work plan for item (i), and A/AC.105/736, annex II, paras. 40 and 41 for items (ii) and (iii), respectively.

[12] A/CONF.184/6.

(iii) Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering;

16. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session will submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2002;

17. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium on the theme "Terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena", with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* that an industry symposium on emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems in improving the productivity of national and regional infrastructure will be organized during the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

19. *Agrees* that, in the context of paragraphs 15 (a) (ii) and 16 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole and that the Subcommittee should consider, through its Working Group of the Whole, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

20. *Also agrees* that, in the context of paragraph 15 (b) (i) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

21. *Encourages* all the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to contribute to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the context of paragraph 15 (b) (ii) above by, inter alia, providing the Subcommittee with appropriate information in response to the list of questions approved by the Committee at its forty-third session;[13]

22. *Further agrees* that, in the context of paragraph 15 (c) (i) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should conduct its work in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its forty-third session;[14]

23. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2001, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;[15]

24. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the African Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, in the French language and in the English language, in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, began their first education activities in April 2000, that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued its education programme in 2000 and that progress has been achieved in furthering the goals of the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central, Eastern and South-

[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 113.

[14] Ibid., para. 119.

[15] See A/AC.105/730, sect. II.

Eastern Europe and in establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions;

25. *Also notes with satisfaction* that Member States concerned in Asia and the Pacific are holding further consultations, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with a view to making the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific grow into a network of nodes;

26. *Recognizes* the usefulness and significance of the Space Conferences of the Americas for the Latin American countries, encourages the convening of a Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, and also encourages other regions to convene periodically regional conferences with a view to achieving convergence of positions on issues of common concern in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space among Member States of the United Nations;

27. *Urges* all Governments, organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental entities conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular its resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[1] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

28. *Notes* that, pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had submitted to the Committee for its review at its forty-third session a plan of action to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III;[16]

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the measures and activities as contained in the plan of action, based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III;[17]

30. *Agrees* that the Committee should include in the agendas at its forty-fourth to forty-seventh sessions, in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, an item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;[18]

31. *Requests* the Committee to prepare a report under the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III for submission to the General Assembly, in order for the Assembly to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, in accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives;

32. *Encourages* all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to support activities to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular the priority project proposals as recommended by the Committee at its forty-third session;[19]

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[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 71.

[17] Ibid., para. 72.

[18] Ibid., para. 76.

[19] Ibid., para. 87.

33. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in connection with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, special events of the United Nations were held at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna on 4 October 2000 to launch the first World Space Week and that other events were also held by interested Member States to celebrate World Space Week, and requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as space-related industries to make voluntary contributions to support activities to celebrate World Space Week;

34. *Recommends* that more attention be paid to all matters relating to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

35. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

36. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

37. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in the developing countries;

38. *Agrees* that the benefits of space technology and its applications should be prominently brought to the attention of conferences organized within the United Nations system to address global issues relating to social, economic and cultural development and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

39. *Takes note* of the interest of certain countries, including Saudi Arabia and Slovakia, that submitted requests to become members of the Committee as well as the requests of those countries that have been sharing seats on a rotating basis — namely Cuba, Peru, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea — to have that practice terminated and to become full members, and requests the Committee to include in the agenda for its forty-fourth session an item on the enlargement of its membership so as to permit those countries requesting membership to become members;

40. *Encourages* Member States to hold informal consultations on the enlargement of membership of the Committee during the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and if necessary, during the fortieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, with a view to reaching consensus agreement on the matter at the forty-fourth session of the Committee;

41. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

42. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-fourth session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

43. *Agrees* that a symposium on the theme "The human dimension in space science and technology applications" should be organized during the forty-fourth session of the Committee;

44. *Invites* the Committee to expand the scope of international cooperation relating to the social, economic, ethical and human dimension in space science and technology applications;

45. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

46. *Also requests* the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future;

47. *Further requests* the Committee to consider and identify new mechanisms of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in accordance with the preamble to the present resolution.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 83
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Chile: draft resolution**

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996 and 54/67 and 54/68 of 6 December 1999,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

* Reissued for technical reasons.
** On behalf of the Working Group of the Whole on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

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Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Convinced of the importance of the recommendations in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999,[1]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III,[2]

Convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications, in such areas as tele-medicine, tele-education and Earth observation, contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-third session,[3]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-third session;[3]

2. *Encourages* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[4] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-ninth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/67;[5]

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the agreement reached by the Legal Subcommittee on the question of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit and the subsequent endorsement of that agreement by the Committee;[6]

5. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following as regular agenda items:

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[1] See A/CONF.184/6, chap. I, resolution 1.

[2] A/55/153.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20).

[4] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), chap. II.C.

[6] A/AC.105/738, annex III, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 129.

(i) General exchange of views;

(ii) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space;

(iii) Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law;

(iv) Matters relating to (1) the definition and delimitation of outer space; and (2) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(b) Consider the following single issues and items for discussion:

(i) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;[7]

(ii) The draft convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property;

(c) Continue its review of the concept of the "launching State", in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee;[8]

6. *Notes* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, will submit its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session, in 2002;

7. *Notes also* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (a) (iv) above, and in accordance with the agreement referred to in paragraph 4 above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its working group on the item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space;

8. *Notes further* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (c) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its working group to consider the item;

9. *Takes note* of the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies,[9] which were endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* that consensus decisions were reached on the members of the bureaux for the second term and agrees that, in accordance with those consensus decisions, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee should elect their chairmen for the second term at the beginning of their thirty-eighth session and fortieth session, respectively;

11. *Notes* that, in accordance with the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, mentioned in paragraph 9 above, consultations will be held among the regional groups at the forty-fourth

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[7] See General Assembly resolution 47/68.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), chap. II.C, para. 114.

[9] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

session of the Committee to determine which group will be responsible for which office for the third term, starting in 2003;

12. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/67;[10]

13. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session continued to consider, on a priority basis, the agenda item on space debris;

14. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should assess the effectiveness of existing space debris mitigation practices and the extent to which they were being implemented and that efforts to model and characterize the debris environment should continue;

15. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following items:

(i) General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities;

(ii) United Nations Programme on Space Applications, following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);

(iii) Matters relating to remote-sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment;

(b) Consider the following items in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee at its forty-third session;[11]

(i) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(ii) Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system;

(iii) Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system;

(c) Consider the following single issues and items for discussion:

(i) Space debris, on a priority basis, consistent with paragraph 370 of the report of UNISPACE III;[12]

(ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to

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[10] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), chap. II.B.

[11] See A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix for the work plan for item (i), and A/AC.105/736, annex II, paras. 40 and 41 for items (ii) and (iii), respectively.

[12] A/CONF.184/6.

developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(iii) Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering;

16. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session will submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2002;

17. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium on the theme "Terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena", with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* that an industry symposium, with the participation of Member States, on emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems in improving the productivity of national and regional infrastructure will be organized during the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

19. *Agrees* that, in the context of paragraphs 15 (a) (ii) and 16 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole and that the Subcommittee should consider, through its Working Group of the Whole, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

20. *Also agrees* that, in the context of paragraph 15 (b) (i) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

21. *Encourages* all the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to contribute to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the context of paragraph 15 (b) (ii) above by, inter alia, providing the Subcommittee with appropriate information in response to the list of questions approved by the Committee at its forty-third session;[13]

22. *Further agrees* that, in the context of paragraph 15 (c) (i) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should conduct its work in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its forty-third session;[14]

23. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2001, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;[15]

24. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the African Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, in the French language and in the English language, in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, began their first education activities in April 2000, that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued its education programme in 2000 and that progress has

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 113.

[14] Ibid., para. 119.

[15] See A/AC.105/730, sect. II.

been achieved in furthering the goals of the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and in establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions;

25. *Also notes with satisfaction* that Member States concerned in Asia and the Pacific are holding further consultations, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with a view to making the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific grow into a network of nodes;

26. *Recognizes* the usefulness and significance of the Space Conferences of the Americas for the Latin American countries, encourages the convening of a Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, and also encourages other regions to convene periodically regional conferences with a view to achieving convergence of positions on issues of common concern in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space among Member States of the United Nations;

27. *Urges* all Governments, organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental entities conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular its resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[1] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

28. *Notes* that, pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had submitted to the Committee for its review at its forty-third session a plan of action to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III;[16]

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the measures and activities as contained in the above-mentioned plan of action, based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III;[17]

30. *Agrees* that the Committee should include in the agendas at its forty-fourth to forty-seventh sessions, in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, an item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;[18]

31. *Requests* the Committee to prepare a report under the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III for submission to the General Assembly, in order for the Assembly to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, in accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives;

32. *Encourages* all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to support activities to implement

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 71.
[17] Ibid., para. 72.
[18] Ibid., para. 76.

the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular the priority project proposals as recommended by the Committee at its forty-third session;[19]

33. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in connection with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, special events of the United Nations were held at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna on 4 October 2000 to launch the first World Space Week and that other events were also held by interested Member States to celebrate World Space Week, and requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as space-related industries to make voluntary contributions to support activities to celebrate World Space Week;

34. *Recommends* that more attention be paid to all matters relating to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

35. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

36. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

37. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in the developing countries;

38. *Agrees* that the benefits of space technology and its applications should be prominently brought to the attention of conferences organized within the United Nations system to address global issues relating to social, economic and cultural development and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

39. *Takes note* of the interest of certain countries, including Saudi Arabia and Slovakia, that submitted requests to become members of the Committee as well as the requests of those countries that have been sharing seats on a rotating basis — namely, Cuba, Peru, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea — to have that practice terminated and to become full members, and requests the Committee to include in the agenda for its forty-fourth session an item on the enlargement of its membership to consider including those countries requesting membership to become full members;

[19] Ibid., para. 87.

40. *Encourages* Member States to hold informal consultations on the enlargement of membership of the Committee during the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and if necessary, during the fortieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, with a view to reaching consensus agreement on the matter at the forty-fourth session of the Committee;

41. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

42. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-fourth session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

43. *Agrees* that a symposium on the theme "The human dimension in space science and technology applications" should be organized during the forty-fourth session of the Committee;

44. *Invites* the Committee to expand the scope of international cooperation relating to the social, economic, ethical and human dimension in space science and technology applications;

45. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

46. *Also requests* the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future;

47. *Further requests* the Committee to consider and identify new mechanisms of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in accordance with the preamble to the present resolution.

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee
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Agenda items 117 and 83

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 28 and 29 of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8, the General Assembly would:

(a) Note that pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 54/68, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its review at its forty-third session a plan of action to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III; and

(b) Request the Secretary-General to implement the measures and activities contained in the plan of action, based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

2. Prior to adoption of the report on its forty-third session,[1] the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was informed, in an oral statement by the Secretariat, of the estimated costs relating to the implementation of its decision to endorse the plan of action and to recommend its implementation.

II. Relationship of the request to the programme of work

3. The activities contained in the plan of action fall under Programme 3, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised.

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and under Section 6, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

III. Activities by which the request would be implemented

4. Certain activities recommended by UNISPACE III fall within the work programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and were included in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, under regular budget funding, supplemented by extrabudgetary resources. Activities contained in the plan of action endorsed by the Committee for which provision was not made in the programme budget for the biennium include:

(a) Strengthening the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in promoting international cooperation in the use of outer space;

(b) Initiating a capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law;

(c) Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications;

(d) Promoting the use of space technologies within the United Nations system;

(e) Establishing and strengthening the partnership with industry;

(f) Strengthening the partnership with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(g) Initiating a public outreach programme and a programme for young people;

(h) Strengthening publication and information services.

5. To these ends, outputs to be included in the programme budget for 2000-2001 for regular budget funding would include: a report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the results of a biannual global survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities; creation and maintenance of a web site on the global survey; an analytical study to identify areas of space-related activities where new and innovative mechanisms for cooperation are required; development of a database on national space laws and policies; development of training modules for integrating space technology into disaster-specific management; implementation of Technology Outreach Programmes; a report containing results and analysis of a survey of the status of the use of space science and technology and its applications within the United Nations system.

IV. Additional resource requirements

6. The additional requirements are estimated at $426,300, for the establishment of two P-3 level and one P-2 level posts ($118,100), consultants ($9,000), travel ($46,000), general operating expenses ($1,700), equipment ($36,000), external printing ($5,500) and an increase for fellowships ($210,000) with respect to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

7. Two P-3 level posts are required to undertake activities relating to increasing the technical capacity of Member States, particularly that of developing countries, in space law; strengthening the capacity of the Office to provide technical advisory services to other organizations of the United Nations system in their use of space technology to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their activities in economic and social development (e.g., integration of satellite communications in disaster response and in provision of education programmes and public health services, use of Earth observation data in developing strategies for disaster reduction, management of natural resources, and environment monitoring and assessment); and assisting in the development of training modules for integrating space technology in disaster management and for using global positioning and navigation satellites; assisting in the establishment of an information network on activities in basic space science and the expansion of the small telescope network, particularly in developing countries, and initiating an interactive multimedia education service in space science and technology.

8. One P-2 level post would assist in initiating public outreach programmes by organizing a programme of visits by astronauts, events during World Space Week, and an annual public forum; developing strategies to integrate selected advanced information technologies into the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities; developing a web site on the global survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities; developing programme content of the multimedia education service in space science and technology.

9. The sum of $9,000 would be required for consultants to be engaged in the development of the first of a series of modules for integrating space technology into disaster-specific management and for the biannual global survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities. It is estimated that $46,000 would be required for the travel of staff for the conduct of needs assessment for integrating space technology into economic and social planning through satellite communication; development of projects related to the use of space technology in disaster management; expansion of a small telescope network in developing countries; participation in meetings of space-related industry; organization in different regions of a round table of legislators who are advocates of space activities and a workshop on space law; provision of substantive support for the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations by non-governmental entities; participation in the organization of events to be held during World Space Week in different regions.

10. The sum of $36,000 would provide for data-processing equipment, including software for the development of databases on national space policies and laws and CD-ROMs containing multimedia educational materials on space science and technology. General operating expenses in the amount of $1,700 would be required for the maintenance of three additional computers for the three new staff members. The sum of $5,500 for contractual services would provide for the external printing of booklets on project proposals from developing countries for distribution to space-related industry and donors.

11. As part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the sum of $210,000 is required under grants and contributions to finance fellowships. This amount would provide, within the framework of the Technology Outreach Programme, support for the participation of individuals from developing countries in

a workshop on the legal aspects of space; fellowships to the centres on space science and technology education and the Network on Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central, Eastern and South-eastern Europe; and assistance for the integration of space technology into disaster management.

V. Potential for absorption

12. No provision was included in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the above-mentioned additional requirements.

VI. Contingency fund

13. Under the procedure established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213 and, in effect, starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low priority areas or modifications in projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

VII. Summary

14. Should the General Assembly approve paragraphs 28 and 29 of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $426,300 would be required under Section 6, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the programme budget for 2000-2001. In addition, an amount of $22,600 would be required under Section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under Income Section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20).

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Agenda items 117 and 83

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. It is recalled that, in view of the request contained in operative paragraph 29 of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8, a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was submitted in document A/C.4/55/L.9.

2. As that request was subsequently modified, a revised draft resolution was issued in document A/C.4/55/L.8/Rev.1.

3. By operative paragraph 29 of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to begin implementing those measures and activities that are contained in the plan of action to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and are currently within the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III, and to ensure the full implementation of the plan with necessary resources in 2002.

4. It is therefore the understanding of the Secretary-General that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would begin implementing only those measures and activities that are contained in the plan of action and are also currently within its programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. It is also the understanding of the Secretary-General that the measures and activities reflected in document A/C.4/55/L.9, for which resources in the amount of $448,900 were being requested, would not be implemented during the current biennium. According to draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8/Rev.1, the related necessary resources for full implementation of the

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plan in 2002 would be reflected in the context of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Should these requirements exceed the resources proposed in the budget outline for 2002-2003, still to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session, any additional requirements would be a first charge to the contingency fund, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213.

5. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.8/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for 2000-2001.

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Fifty-fifth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 84
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/69 of 6 December 1999 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000,[1]

Stressing the importance of the Middle East peace process,

Welcoming the signature in Washington D.C., on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the people of Palestine, of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[2] and the subsequent implementation agreements,

Aware that the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees of the Middle East peace process has an important role to play in the peace process,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. *Notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/55/13).
[2] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

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requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2001;

3. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees;

4. *Notes* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency since the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, and stresses the importance that contributions to this Programme not be at the expense of the General Fund;

5. *Welcomes* the increased cooperation between the Agency and international and regional organizations, States and relevant agencies and non-governmental organizations, which is essential to enhancing the contributions of the Agency towards improved conditions for the refugees and thereby the social stability of the occupied territory;

6. *Urges* all Member States to extend and expedite aid and assistance with a view to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people and the occupied territory;

7. *Reiterates its deep concern* regarding the persisting critical financial situation of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;[1]

8. *Commends* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to move towards budgetary transparency and internal efficiency, and welcomes in this respect the new, unified budget structure for the biennium 2001-2002, which can contribute significantly to improved budgetary transparency of the Agency;

9. *Welcomes* the consultative process between the Agency, host Governments, the Palestinian Authority and donors on management reforms;

10. *Notes with profound concern* that the continuing shortfall in the finances of the Agency has a significant negative influence on the living conditions of the Palestine refugees most in need and that it therefore has possible consequences for the peace process;

11. *Calls upon* all donors, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including the remaining costs of moving the headquarters to Gaza, and encourages contributing Governments to contribute regularly and to consider increasing their regular contributions, and urges non-contributing Governments to contribute.

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 84
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 54/70 of 6 December 1999 and the previous resolutions on this question,

Recalling also its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, by which it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[1]

Having considered the report of the Working Group,[2]

Taking into account the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000,

Deeply concerned about the continuing financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of necessary Agency services to Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the current minimum level, the activities of the Agency, as well as to enable the Agency to carry out essential construction,

[1] A/36/866 and Corr.1; see also A/37/591.
[2] A/55/456.

00-72475 (E) 021100

1. *Commends* the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency;

2. *Takes note with approval* of the report of the Working Group;[2]

3. *Requests* the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, to find a solution to the financial situation of the Agency;

4. *Welcomes* the new, unified budget structure for the biennium 2000-2001, which can contribute significantly to improved budgetary transparency of the Agency;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

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United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Palestine: draft resolution

Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 54/71 of 6 December 1999,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000,[2]

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[3] with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons

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[1] A/55/391.
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/55/13).
[3] A/48/486-S/26560, annex, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

00-72877 (E) 031100

displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Expresses concern* that the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[3] on the return of displaced persons has not been effected, and expresses the hope for an accelerated return of displaced persons;

3. *Endorses*, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its fifty-sixth session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 84
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Palestine: draft resolution

Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948 on assistance to Palestine refugees,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991, 47/69 D of 14 December 1992, 48/40 D of 10 December 1993, 49/35 D of 9 December 1994, 50/28 D of 6 December 1995, 51/127 of 13 December 1996, 52/60 of 10 December 1997, 53/49 of 3 December 1998 and 54/72 of 6 December 1999,

Cognizant of the fact that the Palestine refugees have, for the last five decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000,[2]

[1] A/55/402.
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/55/13).

00-72883 (E) 031100

1. *Urges* all States to respond to the appeal in its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 and reiterated in subsequent relevant resolutions in a manner commensurate with the needs of Palestine refugees for higher education, including vocational training;

2. *Strongly appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees, in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that responded favourably to its resolutions on this question;

4. *Invites* the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the Untied Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students;

5. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and the United Nations University to contribute generously to the Palestinian universities in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including, in due course, the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees;

6. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and other international bodies to contribute towards the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees;

7. *Requests* the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 84

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine: draft resolution

Operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000,[1]

Taking note of the letter dated 28 September 2000 from the Chairman of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East addressed to the Commissioner-General, contained in the report of the Commissioner-General,[2]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/55/13).

[2] Ibid., p. vii.

00-72889 (E) 031100

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolutions 48/40 E,[3] 48/40 H[4] and 48/40 J[5] of 10 December 1993 and 49/35 C[6] of 9 December 1994,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[7]

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[8] to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Aware of the fact that Palestine refugees have, for over five decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Also aware of the continuing needs of Palestine refugees throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in the other fields of operation, namely, in Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Further aware of the valuable work done by the refugee affairs officers of the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees,

Gravely concerned about the increased suffering of the Palestine refugees, including loss of life and injury, during the recent tragic events in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem,

Deeply concerned about the continuing critical financial situation of the Agency and its effect on the continuity of provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Aware of the work of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency,

Recalling the signing in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[9] and the subsequent implementation agreements,

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[10]

Aware of the establishment of a working relationship between the Advisory Commission of the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization in accordance with General Assembly decision 48/417 of 10 December 1993,

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[3] A/49/440.
[4] A/49/442.
[5] A/49/443.
[6] A/50/451.
[7] Resolution 22 A (I).
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[9] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.
[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/49/13), annex I.

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities, including the full implementation of decision 48/417;

3. *Takes note* of the functioning of the headquarters of the Agency in Gaza City on the basis of the Headquarters Agreement between the Agency and the Palestinian Authority;

4. *Acknowledges* the support of the host Governments and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[8] and to abide scrupulously by its provisions;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations[7] with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency and the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem;

7. *Calls upon* Israel to particularly cease obstructing the movement of the personnel, vehicles and supplies of the Agency, which has a detrimental impact on the Agency's operations;

8. *Calls once again upon* the Government of Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side;

9. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

10. *Notes* that the new context created by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization[9] and subsequent implementation agreements has had major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to continue to contribute towards the development of economic and social stability in the occupied territory;

11. *Notes also* that the functioning of the Agency remains essential in all fields of operation;

12. *Notes further* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency;

13. *Expresses concern* over those remaining austerity measures due to the financial crises, which have affected the quality and level of some of the services of the Agency;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Commissioner-General to proceed with the modernization of the archives of the Agency;

15. *Urges* all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency so as to ease current financial constraints and to support the Agency in maintaining the provision of the most basic and effective assistance to the Palestine refugees.

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United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine: draft resolution

Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 54/74 of 6 December 1999,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2000,[2]

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[3] and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

Taking note of the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its

[1] A/55/428

twenty-second progress report,[4] and of the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Recalling that in the framework of the Middle East peace process the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,[5] to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work done to preserve and modernize the existing records of the Commission;

4. *Calls once more upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues in the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes*, Annex No. 11,

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Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine: draft resolution

University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/146 G of 16 December 1981, 37/120 C of 16 December 1982, 38/83 K of 15 December 1983, 39/99 K of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D and K of 16 December 1985, 41/69 K of 3 December 1986, 42/69 K of 2 December 1987, 43/57 J of 6 December 1988, 44/47 J of 8 December 1989, 45/73 J of 11 December 1990, 46/46 J of 9 December 1991, 47/69 J of 14 December 1992, 48/40 I of 10 December 1993, 49/35 G of 9 December 1994, 50/28 G of 6 December 1995, 51/130 of 13 December 1996, 52/63 of 10 December 1997, 53/52 of 3 December 1998 and 54/75 of 6 December 1999,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July1999 to 30 June 2000,[2]

1. *Emphasizes* the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, giving due

consideration to the recommendations consistent with the provisions of that resolution;

3. *Calls once more upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the present resolution and to remove the hindrances that it has put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.